

## Photograph, February 24, 1909

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JOHN A. D. MC CURDY PILOTS "SILVER DART" OVER BADDECK BAY IN THE FIRST AIRPLANE FLIGHT IN CANADA: FEBRUARY 23, 1909 — Silver Dart, fourth of the A. E. A.'s successful aircraft, was designed primarily by Mr. McCurdy. Built at Hammondsport, it was taken to Baddeck early in 1909. There, on February 23, McCurdy took off from the bay ice and flew across the wintry landscape for half a mile while excited skaters trailed him.

In 1910 McCurdy set a biplane speed record (at Belmont Park, New York) and flashed the world's first wireless message from a plane aloft. In the following year he received the first ground-to-air message by wireless. Also in 1911 he flew 95 miles from Key West, Florida, to Cuba, but dropped into the sea near Havana when his motor failed. A destroyer picked him up.

Many years later he served with distinction as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (1947–52).

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